



## MassDEP

Drinking Water Program

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Photo by: Kathleen Romero

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### Drinking Water Program Updates

2018-05-10

This week's program director email has these topics of interest:

1. Public Water Systems Compliance Awards 2018
2. Enhancing Resilience & Emergency Preparedness of Water Utilities through Improved Mapping
3. Updates to MassDEP Solar/Wind Guideline and Solar/Wind Zone I Policy
4. Source Water Collaborative Article: 10 Years of Collaboration in Action
5. Section 70 Annual Report
6. Manganese
7. Hurricane Preparedness Week
8. Training –Free Training

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## Public Water Systems Compliance Awards 2018

Congratulations to the 71 public water systems that received awards on May 8, 2018 at the State House in Boston, Massachusetts. There were 58 compliance awards given and two operators and 11 systems nominated awards. The compliance awardees not only had 100% compliance rate with the regulations for the past 6 years but went above and beyond compliance and completed non-regulatory items, ranging from testing for secondary contaminants to having strong capacity planning. The nominated systems were awarded for competence in source protection, energy conservation, water conservation, or have initiated and completed special projects.

What was new this year was the Star L award given to systems that work with local school districts to assist them to take action to reduce lead in school drinking water. The winners below were: Boston

Water and Sewer Commission and the Boston School district, MWRA, and Reading Water Department and the Reading School District.



Also, the Distinguished Operator Performance Awards were given to Eric Mysliwy of Reading Water Department and to Peter Thayer of Springfield Water and Sewer Commission for their outstanding efforts in performing exemplary work.

Later this year MassDEP will be asking for nominations for next year's PWS Awards. Stay tuned for more information on that. In the meantime please see the attached press release of the awardees. Please email our photographer Julianne Ture for pictures of the awardees at [julianne.ture@state.ma.us](mailto:julianne.ture@state.ma.us).

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## Enhancing Resilience & Emergency Preparedness of Water Utilities through Improved Mapping

### **ROUND TWO OF FREE MAPPING!**

In 2017, as part of the Water Management Act (WMA) grant program, MassDEP's Water Utility Resilience Program (WURP) initiated a standardized Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technical assistance project that resulted in jumpstarting GIS mapping for 49 water utilities in 32 communities. This year, an additional \$500,000 in WMA funding has been secured in order to continue this technical assistance. MassDEP is pleased to announce Tighe and Bond, Inc. as the successful bidder for this project, which will result in the following completed tasks:

- Provide specific GIS mapping for up to 40 prioritized water utilities;
- Complete a statewide GIS datalayer of community water service areas; and,
- Develop a field use information report that offers technology options water utilities may consider for accessing and enhancing their systems' GIS data in real time.

In the interest of transparency and in collaboration with additional state agency requests, MassDEP has been in the process of developing statewide service area data for public access. This statewide service area data under development provides a general view of existing water service availability within each community in the Commonwealth, and will not show any detailed information relative to critical infrastructure. Tighe & Bond will be reaching out to work with community officials in order to confirm the draft, water service area information, and the completion of any necessary revisions or corrections to the service area maps. All systems that work with the contractor will receive a copy of the completed service area map as well.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation with this important project. If you have any questions about this effort, please contact Kristin Divris of MassDEP's Water Utility Resilience Program (WURP) at 508-849-4028 or [Kristin.Divris@state.ma.us](mailto:Kristin.Divris@state.ma.us) or visit MassDEP's website at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/watersheds/water-utility-resilience-program.html>

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## Updates to MassDEP Solar/Wind Guideline and Solar/Wind Zone I Policy

The following two MassDEP documents have been updated and are attached to this email:

- 1) Guideline BRP 2011-1 titled *Information to be Submitted to MassDEP for Proposed Solar and Wind Energy Projects on Lands Owned or Controlled by Public Water Systems for Drinking Water Purposes* and
- 2) Policy BRP 2011-1 titled *Solar and Wind Energy Projects Proposed in Zone I*.

### **Background**

State laws mandate that MassDEP review changes to lands owned or controlled by public water systems. In 2011 MassDEP streamlined the review of solar and wind projects proposed by public water systems on lands that they own or control since these installations are compatible with the operation of a water supply. In 2017, MassDEP's Drinking Water Program identified updates needed for the solar/wind guideline and solar/wind Zone I policy to address two issues.

### **What are the updates?**

- 1) PWS asked about putting lithium-ion batteries to store solar energy, and trailers to house the batteries, on their land.

Unlike conventional batteries, lithium-ion batteries do not contain liquids such as acids. However, the potential for fire exists. Firefighting for electrical materials may pose hazards to drinking water since they contain perfluoroalkyl compounds. These compounds are emerging unregulated drinking water contaminants.

After conducting research and consulting with the Clean Energy Results Program (CERP) and the Department of Energy Resources (DOER), DWP identified the need to prohibit these batteries and housing within the Zone I and to allow them with certain conditions on PWS lands outside the Zone I.

2) There have been solar proposals submitted that included significant land clearing and deforestation of the Zone I.

DWP has identified land clearing and deforestation as a practice that negatively impacts aquifer recharge. There is also the potential for damage to wells and well housings during construction and post-construction maintenance. There will be a minimum of a 200 ft. no disturbance area from the well within the Zone I for the installation of, or land clearing related to, solar installations. Site characteristics and conditions may require a larger no disturbance area at the discretion of the Department.

Note: If it is necessary to install solar panels within the Zone I at the well (as in the case of a very small installation to run a pump), then the project will be reviewed under the normal case by case, not streamlined, review process for proposed changes to PWS lands.

### **Who Reviewed the Updates?**

- MassDEP Drinking Water Program, including DWP Chiefs; Assistant Commissioner, BWR; former Director, BRP, DWM; Assistant Commissioner, Policy & Planning; Deputy Regional Directors; Director, Clean Energy Results Program; MassDEP's Safe Drinking Water Act Advisory Committee (members include public water suppliers and water works associations' reps.); Mass. Department of Energy Resources, Director of Emerging Technologies (reviewed battery issue).

### **Where Are The Updated Documents Located?**

The updated documents are posted on MassDEP's web site at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/drinking-water-policies-and-guidance>. They are also attached to this email.

### **Questions?**

Contact the Drinking Water Program at 617-292-5770 or [program.director-dwp@state.ma.us](mailto:program.director-dwp@state.ma.us).

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## Source Water Collaborative Article: 10 Years of Collaboration in Action

Our vision is simple – all drinking water sources are adequately protected. The National Source Water Collaborative (SWC) started in 2006 with fourteen national organizations, concerned about the implications of shifting landscapes and quickly expanding developments on the safety and sustainability of drinking water supplies. Those 14 members knew that they were faced with a challenge and an opportunity, and by acting together now, they could protect sources of drinking water for generations to come. Over the past ten years, the SWC has experienced tremendous growth and progress—the original 14 members has nearly doubled and is now 27 strong, after welcoming our newest member, American Rivers, in January 2017. Our one-stop-shop website boasts a compendium of valuable resources and targeted toolkits, products of member collaborations, while our Twitter feed ([@sourcewatercol](#)) has quickly become the place for source water protection news, updates, and member accomplishments. In 2016 the SWC launched the popular Learning Exchange webinars and resources, and participation at high-profile national conferences have greatly expanded our reach and impact.

While the last ten years have been marked by change, the core principle that we were founded on remains— that by working together and combining our strengths, resources, and will to action, this diverse set of member organizations would be able to realize far greater successes than by working alone. This principle still provides the foundation of the Collaborative’s approach and success today. We are proud of our accomplishments and invite you to explore a sampling of the Collaborative’s 2016 efforts from the past year celebrating 10 years of achievement in source water collaboration. The SWC’s work and its member organizations far exceed the capacity of this report. Our [2016 Accomplishments Report](#) presents a sampling of our various individual and collaborative efforts. As you read these pages, we hope that you recognize our accomplishments.

We also challenge you to give pause and think creatively about what your organization and community can do to advance source water protection. We invite you to help us expand our reach by encouraging members of your networks to [sign up](#) for our email distribution list or follow us on [twitter](#) for the latest in source water protection news & events.

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## Section 70 Annual Report

The Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment Advisory Committee’s 24<sup>th</sup> annual report to the Legislature for 2017 is available on MassDEP’s web site at:

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/safe-drinking-water-act-assessment-advisory-committee>.

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Assessment, also called the Section 70 Assessment, is paid each year by the 6.2 million consumers of public water and is collected by the 1,668 public water systems (PWS) in Massachusetts. The average cost to each consumer is about 32 cents per year. The Assessment provides funds to MassDEP's Drinking Water Program to maintain primacy for the federal SDWA. Primacy means that the SDWA is implemented by MassDEP, including all enforcement responsibilities, instead of by the federal government.

By maintaining primacy, MassDEP ensures the implementation of state-specific programs that save consumers millions of dollars. Just one SDWA program administered by the Drinking Water Program, the Monitoring Waiver Program, is saving consumers \$4,712,914 in water quality monitoring costs for the 2017-2019 cycle. The Assessment is also used as a state match for federal funds for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Set Aside Program, which provides significant technical assistance and grants to PWS.

The current Assessment rate is \$8.50 per million gallons of water used. The minimum bill issued to a PWS is \$20.00. Approximately half of the 1,668 PWS in Massachusetts pay the minimum \$20.00 bill. Assessment revenue for fiscal year 2017 was \$1,924,489. A summary of work completed at MassDEP in 2017 with Assessment funds is included at the end of the report.

If you have any questions about the Annual Report, the Assessment Program or the Advisory Committee, please call 617-292-5770 or email [program.director-dwp@state.ma.us](mailto:program.director-dwp@state.ma.us) with the subject line Section 70.

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## Manganese

MassDEP is reminding Public Water Suppliers that if the manganese level in their finished water is elevated over the EPA Health Advisory/MassDEP ORSG Level of 0.30 mg/L (300 ug/L), they must continue to notify their consumers of the results until the level is reliably and consistently below the Health Advisory level

**For Community Systems:** After the initial notice, a PWS may request a reduction in the quarterly notification requirement. However, in no circumstance shall the general population notice be reduced to less than once per year (in the Consumer Confidence Report) or the notices to public health officials be reduced to less than quarterly. You must also submit a plan to notify sensitive subpopulations (such as care givers for infants, pregnant and nursing mothers). Your plan should include all of the methods you will use to routinely reach sensitive subpopulations, for example, sending the public notice to pediatricians' offices, Boards of Health, preschools and childcare centers, etc. Plans should also address seasonal populations, if applicable. PWSs with elevated manganese levels must prominently and clearly display their manganese information in their Consumer Confidence Report (CCR).

**For Non-Community Non-Transient systems:** Continue to post your Public Notification at sinks and drinking water taps.

In some cases, MassDEP will be asking PWS to update their corrective action plan and provide a new timeline for lowering the manganese level in their finished water. For questions, please contact your MassDEP Regional Office Drinking Water Staff <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/water-resources-contacts>

#### **Manganese and the Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Rule (UCMR 4)**

Manganese is one of the contaminants to be tested under UCMR4. This rule is directly implemented by USEPA and is applicable to large community water systems serving 10,001 and more people and to a random selection of small community water systems serving 25 – 10,000 people. Is your public water system scheduled by EPA for UCMR4 sampling? For more information on UCMR4 see:

<https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fourth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>. If you have any questions please contact the EPA CDX help desk [[helpdesk@epacdx.net](mailto:helpdesk@epacdx.net) or (888)-890-1995]. You may also contact the Drinking Water Program at [program.director-dwp@state.ma.us](mailto:program.director-dwp@state.ma.us) Subject: UCMR4

#### **Flushing Water Mains – New Fact Sheet is available**

MassDEP has published a new fact sheet on flushing water mains. The document explains why and how water suppliers conduct water main flushing and answers frequently asked questions from consumers. Systems with elevated manganese levels with flushing programs are encouraged to read and use this FAQ. It can be found at:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/water-main-flushing-fact-sheet-faq-for-consumers> and on our Water Systems Operations web page <https://www.mass.gov/lists/water-systems-operations-ii>

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## Hurricane Preparedness Week

May 6 to 12 is Hurricane Preparedness Week, during which time people and organizations in hurricane-prone areas are encouraged to make all necessary preparations for the 2018 hurricane season, which begins on May 15 in the Eastern Pacific Ocean and June 1 for the Atlantic Ocean. For each day of the week, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) features sets of hurricane preparedness tips and resources. For more information see:

<https://www.weather.gov/wrn/hurricane-preparedness>

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## Training

**FREE TRAINING**



Sponsored by MassDEP/NEWWA/UMass Amherst: (Initially limited to maximum of (2) operators per PWS)

**Registration:**

To register for these trainings, reply to this email or email [program.director-dwp@state.ma.us](mailto:program.director-dwp@state.ma.us) , Subject: Training, with up to two names, contact email(s) and the course(s) for which you are registering. Space is limited for these courses.

**Courses:**

**May 25th, 2018: Putting the CONTROL Back into Process Control - 6 TCH**

*MassDEP – CERO Regional Office, 8 New Bond Street, Worcester MA*

*Registration deadline: May 18, 2018*

Course Description: This course will give insight into the methods of providing the best control of BOTH treatment and distribution system processes in drinking water supplies. With continuing concerns of current and future contaminants, the course will identify what process control is, and how it can benefit your system in establishing barriers to contamination. Several proposed future contaminants will be discussed along with proven successful methods of process control.

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**June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018: Evaluating Chemical Treatment Options for Drinking Water - 6 TCH**

*Amherst WWTP, 1 Mullins Way - Amherst, MA 01002*

*Registration deadline: May 29, 2018*


Course Description: Utilities have many choices when it comes to selecting the best chemicals to treat drinking water effectively. This course will review the various types of chemicals used in drinking water treatment; how the chemicals are able to perform; safety hazards; and when to use each chemical. Short demonstrations will allow participants to witness the success of certain chemicals used in drinking water treatment.

When you need training please look at the training calendar located at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/drinking-water-training-class-schedules.html> for upcoming trainings.

If you need a refresher on recently given trainings, you can review several training videos located at:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJn2AKOcYr7lutGJB-UfDKtQPF\\_o\\_249m](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJn2AKOcYr7lutGJB-UfDKtQPF_o_249m)

or click here:  YouTube

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Spam



Please be reminded that official emails from MassDEP will never come from a Hotmail or any other personal account. If you receive an email of this nature, the email is spam. Do not click on the links, and delete it immediately. To safeguard yourself only click open emails that have [XXXXX.XXXX@state.ma.us](mailto:XXXXX.XXXX@state.ma.us).

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MassDEP is sending this important drinking water information to all PWS responsible persons who are listed on the state database. If you are no longer the correct responsible person for the PWS please reply with the correct contact information. MassDEP needs one responsible contact person from each PWS.

Operators, consultants, and others who are interested in Drinking Water Program updates are encouraged to request to be subscribed to this email list. You may also request to be unsubscribed by replying to this email.

This MassDEP Program Director technical assistance email is funded by the Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment (Section 70) Program. The Assessment is paid by all consumers of public water in Massachusetts and is collected by public water systems. For more information about the Assessment Program, go to <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/news/advisory-committees/safe-drinking-water-act-assessment-advisory-committee.html>.

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